

Message Text

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45

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-10 EB-11 INR-10 CIAE-00

SEC-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 JUSE-00 DRC-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 USIE-00 PA-03 SCA-01 /080 W

----- 096602

O P 141808Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4606

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV EFIN CS BF

SUBJ: GCOB TO ISSUE STATEMENT ON VESCO

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFF MORNING
SEPTEMBER 14, ATTORNEY GENERAL PAUL ADDERLEY ANNOUNCED THAT
HE WILL BE ISSUING A STATEMENT TODAY CONCERNING BAHAMIAN
HANDLING OF THE VESCO CASE. THE STATEMENT, TEXT OF WHICH
ADDERLEY PROMISED TO FURNISH EMBASSY ASAP, WILL DEFEND BAHAM-
IAN ACTION IN NOT CARRYING OUT PROVISIONAL ARREST. EMBASSY
EXPECTS PRESS QUERIES AND REQUESTS DEPARTMENT PRESS GUIDANCE.
END SUMMARY

1. ADDERLEY SAID THAT BAHAMIAN EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAD ACTED
CORRECTLY IN FORWARDING REQUEST FOR VESCO'S PROVISIONAL ARREST
TO MAGISTRATE, AND THAT MAGISTRATE HAD ACTED CORRECTLY IN RE-
FUSING TO ISSUE ARREST WARRANT UNTIL FURTHER EVIDENCE OF
OFFENSE WAS FORTHCOMING. ADDERLEY SAID THAT NO SUCH EVI-
DENCE WAS EVER OFFERED AND THAT IT SEEMED CLEAR THAT EITHER
THE MATTER HAD BEEN DROPPED IN THE U.S. OR THAT AT LEAST NO
ACTION WAS PRESENTLY CONTEMPLATED BY U.S. AUTHORITIES.

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2. ADDERLEY COMPLAINED THAT THE BAHAMAS HAD BEEN HURT BY "MIS-

INFORMED PUBLICITY" SURROUNDING BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT REACTION TO VESCO AND THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO CORRECT THE RECORD BECAUSE OF THE "UNFORTUNATE EFFECT" SUCH PUBLICITY COULD HAVE ON ATTITUDES TOWARD THE JUDICIARY. ADDERLEY POINTED SPECIFICALLY TO ACCOUNTS OF A SPEECH BY T&T PM WILLIAMS IN THE JAMAICAN GLEANER NEWSPAPER ABOUT AUGUST 30. THAT ACCOUNT REPORTED WILLIAMS TO HAVE ATTACKED THE BAHAMAS AS "AN EMBARRASSMENT TO THE CARIBBEAN" BECAUSE OF ITS TIES TO U.S. PRIVATE FINANCIAL INVESTMENT, U.S. CASINO INTERESTS, AND, PARTICULARLY, TO AN INDIVIDUAL SOUGHT BY U.S. AUTHORITIES WHO, WHILE UNNAMED BY WILLIAMS, WAS CLEARLY VESCO.

3. ADDERLEY SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN CONVINCED FROM THE BEGINNING THAT VESCO HAD NOT BEEN INDICTED IN THE U.S. FOR AN OFFENSE EXTRADITABLE UNDER THE US-UK EXTRADITION TREATY. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD NOT ISSUED A STATEMENT EARLIER BECAUSE UNDER THAT TREATY THERE IS A TWO-MONTH PERIOD AFTER PROVISIONAL ARREST DURING WHICH THE COUNTRY SEEKING EXTRADITION MUST PRESENT EVIDENCE, IN THE ABSENCE OF WHICH THE ARRESTING NATION MUST RELEASE THE INDIVIDUAL SOUGHT. EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS NO PROVISIONAL ARREST HERE, ADDERLEY SAID THAT HE THOUGHT IT PROPER TO WAIT TWO MONTHS TO SEE IF U.S. DECIDED TO PRESENT EVIDENCE. ADDERLEY SAID THAT HE DATED THIS TWO-MONTH PERIOD FROM JULY 10, 1973 (INDEPENDENCE DAY), SINCE BEFORE THEN HE DID NOT FEEL HE HAD ANY AUTHORITY IN THE MATTER.

4. ADDERLEY'S PUBLIC STATEMENT WILL GIVE SUMMARY OF EVENTS CONCERNING EXTRADITION REQUEST FROM HIS VIEWPOINT. THIS WILL BE FIRST TIME U.S. EXTRADITION REQUEST TO THE GCOB IS MADE PUBLIC. EMBASSY THEREFORE EXPECTS PRESS QUERIES AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY PRESS GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO GIVE IN RESPONSE.

5. EMBASSY CONCERNED IT HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY KNOWN OF PURPORTED ERIC WILLIAMS ATTACK ON BAHAMAS MENTIONED PARA 2 ABOVE, AND WOULD APPRECIATE TEXT OF SAME.

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